Aide Refuses To Describe Events

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Johnson-Kennedy Friction

WASHINGTON (AP) — The press aide in charge at the presidential changeover in Dallas, Tex., three years ago confirmed Monday night there was friction between Kennedy and Johnson factions aboard the funeral plane flying back to Washington.

"I think that there are things that happened, especially on the plane coming back, that could be embarrassing to both the Kennedy's and the Johnson's," Malcolm M. Kilduff said. He refused to describe the events he referred to.

The former assistant White House press officer added that as a direct result of intense emotional feeling at the time "some of the old 1960 wounds were reopened, rehashed, thought about.'

But Kilduff said President Johnson "continued to show" aboard the plane, after taking over the presidency, concern for Mrs. John F. Kennedy and members of the Kennedy family.

"There was no grossness on his part, as has been implied by others in the recent past," Kilduff said.

In a taped television-radio interview with Westinghouse Broadcasting Co., on the eve of the third anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Kilduff dismissed as "pure garbage" the rash of speculation that questions the Warren Commission's basic conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed Kennedy.

Kilduff rode in the fourth car behind the Kennedy's in Dallas.

"I have absolutely no doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald committed the act on his own and that there was no conspiracy involved, as has been insinuated in many books, and is a belief which is actually widespread in Europe," he said.

However, Kilduff said he does disagree with the commission's finding that the first bullet that struck Kennedy and passed through his neck was the one that wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally. A second shot in the head killed Kennedy.

"In my mind," Kilduff said, "there were three shots fired. I have verified that with other people who were riding in the same car. I have verified it with Secret Service agents."

Noting that the bullet that wounded Connally passed through the governor's shoulder, ribs, wrist and thigh, Kilduff went on:

"The Warren Commission report shows a bullet, a perfect bullet. I have talked to ballistic

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experts, who say that it would not be possible for a bullet to travel through that much mass and come out in such a perfect condition."

Kilduff said he had talked to Connally who agrees he was hit by a separate bullet, that the governor said he heard the first shot and was turning to look back when he was hit. Connally was sitting in the jump seat in Kennedy's car.

"As a matter of fact," Kilduff said, "I have on the highest authority, information that parts of that bullet are still in Gov. Connally's leg. so, therefore it would not be possible, as the Warren Commission states, that the bullet came out as clean as it did."

The same view by Connally that he was hit by a separate bullet is reported in this week's issue of Life magazine. The magazine said he is more firmly convinced of this after viewing blown-ups of movie film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, a bystander.

Life, calling for a new investigation, said there is 'reasonable doubt that Oswald acted alone.

"The evidence," Life said, "particularly that given by Gov. Connally and his interpretation of the Zapruder film, does not prove that Oswald had a coconspirator Nor does it disprove it. It does show that reasonable—and disturbing — doubt remains."

Kilduff, in criticizing the rash of publications raising doubt that Oswald acted alone, said they were "written by people who have attempted to capitalize on the assassination for their own personal gain. None of

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them has been written by people who were in Dallas at the time, or were privy to any of the conversations or to personnel in the White House."

In connection with the forthcoming publication in Look magazine of excerpts of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," written with cooperation of the Kennedys, Kilduff said Manchester is violating a written agreement wth the Kennedys.

It was agreed, Kilduff said, that the text would not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, unless Mrs. Kennedy designated a prior date "and it shall be published at such date thereafter as shall be mutually agreeable to the contracting parties."

Kilduff said: "I have reason to know Mrs. Kennedy has at no time given either oral or written permission for publication of the book or any portion thereof prior to Nov. 22, 1968."

Manchaster was with his family in Europe and unavailable for comment.

Kilduff also criticized the book on Kennedy written by former presidential aide, Arthur Schlesinger. He said it is based on privileged information. But a book by former aide Ted Sorensen "is an academic work," Kilduff said, and one by former press aide Pierre Salinger is "a recount of personal experience which was done in good taste."

He has no plans to write a book or any articles, Kilduff said, because "I was privy to privileged information."